

**Lieutenant Governor  
Joseph E. Kernan, Director**  
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
ONE NORTH CAPITOL, SUITE 700  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204  
TEL 317 232 8800  
[www.indianacommerce.com](http://www.indianacommerce.com)

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**For More Information Contact:** Jeff Harris, 317.232.2464

## ***Kernan Announces New Autocar World Headquarters and Truck Plant in Hagerstown; 155 New Jobs***

INDIANAPOLIS — Becoming the newest company to call Indiana home, today Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced Autocar, LLC will move its world headquarters to Hagerstown, Ind. and establish a new truck manufacturing plant in the community.

Owned by Grand Vehicle Works Holdings Corp., Autocar was founded more than 100 years ago and is the oldest vehicle name in continuous production in the U.S. Marketing and manufacturing the Xpeditor, a heavy-duty truck model used mainly for refuse and construction applications, the company will locate in the former Dana manufacturing facility and will create approximately 155 new, full-time jobs.

"We're absolutely thrilled that Autocar has made this decision to locate its headquarters in Indiana," said Kernan, who serves as director of the Indiana Department of Commerce and oversees the state's economic development efforts. "This was really a team effort. Officials at all levels worked together to help attract AutoCar, and for that we are thankful. We welcome the company and its executives to Hagerstown and Wayne County and look forward to a long and prosperous relationship with them."

Established in 2001 when Illinois-based Grand Vehicle Works bought the name Autocar and the Xpeditor truck line from Volvo Trucks North America Inc., the Hagerstown plant is expected to start pilot production in the second quarter of 2003, with full production scheduled to begin no later than July 2003.

"Our Autocar management team has worked very hard to locate a world-class production facility that will meet our long-term manufacturing needs and accommodate our aggressive growth plans," says Bob Enright, president of AutoCar. "Hagerstown, which was one of several potential sites, clearly meets our criteria."

As announced in October, Autocar will also produce for its sister company, Workhorse Custom Chassis, a heavy-duty diesel powered chassis. The Autocar plant will produce its Xpeditor vehicle on a separate line. All activities at the Autocar site will bring a total of more than 200 jobs to the area, with the potential of additional jobs in the future. Parent company Grand Vehicle Works brought a number of jobs to nearby Union City within the past few years; proximity to these companies and to suppliers was a factor in the decision to locate in Hagerstown.

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"We are happy that we could put this deal together for the people of Hagerstown," added James N. Hizer, president/CEO of Economic Development Corp. of Wayne County. "Hagerstown's long-term commitment to our county-wide economic development effort is paying off in a big way with the location of these two projects."

To support the project, the state, city and county worked together. The Indiana Department of Commerce offered a Skills Enhancement Fund (SEF) grant of up to \$45,000 to assist in training employees in a variety of areas and up to \$1 million in Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) credits over a five-year period.

The Economic Development Corp. of Wayne County also offered significant incentives to Autocar, including relocation grant of \$1,000 per job and tax abatement. Previously, Hagerstown approved abatements to Workhorse for machinery, redevelopment for a parking area and plant redevelopment.

The Indiana Department of Commerce awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital-investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in transferable and company-specific skills necessary to support these projects. EDGE tax credits are based on the creation of new Hoosier jobs and are awarded to companies that may otherwise locate in another state or country.

Companies interested in these or other Commerce programs should contact the Indiana Department of Commerce's Economic Development Division at 800.463.8081 or access its Web site at [www.indianacommerce.com](http://www.indianacommerce.com).

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